

REMARKS

Claims 16-19 and 42-50 are pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under §112 for not including the step identified as method step (b) in amended claim 16. Claims 16-18 also stand rejected under §102 as unpatentable over Muhanna '070. Claims 42-48 have been allowed. For the reasons set forth below, reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 has been amended to address the §112 issue, and to include the limitation of claim 27 (now cancelled). Since claim 27 was previously rejected only on §112 grounds, and since that grounds of rejection has been obviated by the present amendment, claims 16-19 are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 49-50 (newly added) include all the limitations of original claim 16, the limitation of claim 19 that was rejected only on §112 grounds, and the step identified as method step (b) in amended claim 16. Here too then, since the new claims includes all the limitations of claim 19 that was previously rejected only on §112 grounds, and since the §112 issue has been addressed by the addition of the lacking method step, claims 49-50 are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 42-48 have been indicated to have been allowed, and those claims remain in the application.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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